

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /044 W
-----058931 171033Z /20

O R 170940Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2046
INFO SECDEF WASH DC
CINCPAC HONOLULU
COMUSJAPAN, YOKOTA
COMNAVFORJAPAN, YOKOSUKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 16078

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, JA
SUBJECT: ATSUGI ACCIDENT - SHIPMENT OF ENGINES TO US

SUMMARY. CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION HAS BEEN DRAWN TO F-4
ACCIDENT OVER PAST WEEK AS JDA DIRGEN WAS ATTACKED IN DIET
FOR NOT HAVING DESPATCHED JDA HELICOPTERS TO AID VICTIMS
AND ASAHI GOT WIND OF FACT US HAD SHIPPED AIRCRAFT ENGINES
TO US FOR ANALYSIS "WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION TO GOJ."
CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY CALLED SHIPMENT "REGRETTABLE,"
BUT OUTLINED CHAIN OF EVENTS LEADING TO ENGINES' DE-
PARTURE THAT CLEARLY INDICATED GOJ HAD PRIOR KNOWLEDGE THAT
ENGINES WOULD BE SHIPPED. SECURITY DIVISION DIRECTOR
TOLD EMBOFF SONODA'S PRESENTATION OF CHAIN OF EVENTS HAD
DONE MUCH TO SET STORY STRAIGHT. HE ALSO NOTED GOJ IN-
TENTION TO STATE IN DIET US RIGHT TO SHIP ENGINES IN
INTEREST OF EXPEDITIOUS ANALYSIS, BUT SAID RETURN OF
ENGINES TO JAPAN WOULD BE REQUESTED WHEN ANALYSIS COMPLETED.
END SUMMARY.

1. CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TO F-4 ACCIDENT
LAST WEEK WHEN ASAHI, IN WAKE OF SEVERAL LOWER HOUSE
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BUDGET COMMITTEE SESSIONS DURING WHICH
JDA DIRGEN MIAHRA WAS RAKED OVER COALS FOR NOT
DESPATCHING HELICOPTER TO RESCUE VICTIMS OF CRASH AND
CRITICISM WAS LEVIED AT MODALITIES OF INVESTIGATION, ALLEGED IN
OCTOBER 15 MORNING EDITION THAT ENGINES OF CRASHED F4
HAD BEEN "SPIRITED AWAY" TO US WITHOUT PROPER NOTIFICATION
HAVING BEEN GIVEN TO GOJ. NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL CRITICAL

ARTICLES ENSUED OVER WEEKEND TERMING ENGINES "KEY" TO FINDING CAUSE OF ACCIDENT AND TAKING GOJ TO TASK FOR NOT TAKING FIRMER STAND WITH US.

CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SONODA AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING OCTOBER 15 SAID IT WAS REGRETTABLE THAT US HAD NOT GIVEN ADVANCE NOTICE OF SHIPMENT, BUT EXPLAINED PROGRESSION OF EVENTS THAT LED TO SHIPMENT OF ENGINES ALONG FOLLOWING LINES (THIS ALSO JIBES WITH FONOFF VERSION):

A. ON OCTOBER 5 US SIDE TOLD KANAGAWA PREFECTURAL POLICE IT WISHED TO TAKE ENGINES TO US; POLICE DISAGREED; US PROMISED TO RESTUDY QUESTION; KANAGAWA POLICE INFORMED NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY, DFAA AND FONOFF.

B. EVENING OF OCTOBER 6, US SIDE AGAIN INFORMED KANAGAWA POLICE OF DESIRE TO SHIP ENGINES TO US BECAUSE OF LACK OF SOPHISTICATED ANALYSIS FACILITIES IN JAPAN; AGAIN KANAGAWA POLICE OBJECTED AND AGAIN REPORTED TO ABOVE GOJ AGENCIES.

C. ON OCTOBER 7 KANAGAWA POLICE INFORMED US SIDE THAT MATTERS CONCERNING ACCIDENT SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH EXTRAORDINARY OCCURRENCES SUBCOMMITTEE OF US-JAPAN JOINT COMMITTEE; AT SUBCOMMITTEE LATER SAME DAY, GOJ REP INFORMED US REP THAT GOJ WISHED TO HAVE US INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED WITH JAPAN, BUT IN EVENT IT WERE NECESSARY TO SHIP ENGINES TO US, GOJ WISHED TO BE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE; IN EVENT ENGINES WERE SHIPPED TO US, GOJ WISHED TO HAVE RESULTS OF ANALYSIS (US SIDE AGREED TO PROVIDE SUMMARY); GOJ CONFIDENTIAL

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REP ALSO SAID THAT IF NECESSARY GOJ RESERVED RIGHT TO SEEK RETURN OF ENGINES TO JAPAN FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS.

D. ON OCTOBER 8 F-4 ENGINES WERE SHIPPED FROM YOKOTA AB TO US WITHOUT ANY FURTHER NOTICE TO GOJ. ASAHI GOT WIND OF FACT ON OCTOBER 14.

2. IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF OCTOBER 17, FONOFF SECURITY DIVISION DIRECTOR SATO STATED THAT ON BASIS OF ABOVE FACTS GOJ COULD NOT SAY IT HAD RECEIVED NO PRIOR NOTICE OF US INTENTION TO SHIP ENGINES TO US, ONLY THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF SPECIFIC TIME AND PLACE. WHILE CLEARLY DISPLEASED WITH SONODA'S "REGRET" AND WITH HANDLING OF ISSUE BY DFAA, SATO THOUGHT THAT SONODA'S PRESENTATION OF CHAIN OF EVENTS HAD DONE MUCH TO SET RECORD STRAIGHT. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, VITAL NECESSITY THAT US AND JAPAN APPEAR TO BE COOPERATING FULLY REGARDING ACCIDENT. IN ORDER TO CUT OFF FURTHER QUESTIONING ON ISSUE, SATO HAS RPRPARED BRIEFING PAPER FOR FONMIN TO USE IN TODAY'S LOWER HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE SESSION, WHICH STATES FLATLY US RIGHT UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW AND PERTINENT AGREEMENTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS TO REMOVE ENGINES FROM JAPAN; THAT IT WAS ONLY LOGICAL TO TAKE ENGINES TO BEST PLACE FOR ANALYSIS

IN ORDER TO ENABLE ALL CONCERNED TO DETERMINE CAUSE OF
ACCIDENT AND DEVELOP PREVENTIVE MEASURES, IF NECESSARY.
A SECOND STATEMENT WILL REQUEST SPEEDY COMPLETION OF ANALYSIS OF
ENGINES IN US AND THEIR EARLY RETURN TO JAPAN AND FULL
REPORT OF ANALYSIS COMPLETED IN US. SATO EXPRESSED HIS
STRONGEST APPRECIATION FOR COOPERATION GOJ HAD RECEIVED
FROM US FORCES IN HANDLING OF INCIDENT.

3. COMMENT. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT ENGINE ASPECT OF IN-
CIDENT WILL BE BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL BUT THAT GOJ WILL,
NEVERTHELESS, PRESS FOR RETURN OF ENGINES AND RETENTION OF
PILOTS IN JAPAN UNTIL COMPLETION OF ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION.
MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ACCIDENTS, ENGINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TOKYO16078
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770380-0976
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771050/aaaabqrm.tel
Line Count: 128
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 887447
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATSUGI ACCIDENT - SHIPMENT OF ENGINES TO US SUMMARY. CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION HAS BEEN DRAWN TO F-4 ACCIDENT OVER PAST WEEK AS JDA DIRGEN WAS ATTACKED
TAGS: MARR, JA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1531ac2d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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